

S-65
Greenwood Farm
Kingston vicinity (site)
private

c. 1790, and c. 1825-1850

Perhaps the most intriguing of the telescope style houses of Somerset County was the five-part frame dwelling that formerly stood on the Greenwood farm southwest of the Kingston crossroads. Since it burned in 1970, the exact age and development of the house is clouded, but the oldest section was evidently built by William Williams (1764-c. 1838) on his father's creekside plantation during the fourth quarter of the eighteenth century. In 1798, William Williams was assessed for,

1 Dwelling house built of wood, 31 feet by 27 feet, two story high, 8 windows 5 1/2 feet by 3 feet, 10 windows 4 feet by 3 feet, 4 garret windows 3 feet by 2 feet, 1 kitchen 16 feet square, 1 smoke house 10 feet square, 1 milk house 16 feet by 12 feet, 1 stable 8 feet square with an 8 foot shed to the same.

Although William Williams was only assessed for an 100-acre tract known as "Neighbors Conclusion," he inherited from his father, Thomas Williams, the ground on which his house stood in 1802, and later, in 1829, William inherited the adjacent lands of his brother, Thomas.

By 1830, William Williams had amassed one of the most impressive estates of antebellum Somerset County. Encompassing more than 2,300 acres, the Williams plantation was operated by sixty-eight slaves and contained eighty-three head of cattle, seventy hogs, and eight "yoke oxen." For transportation, Williams had two four-wheel carriages, one gig, one sulky, and two canoes. In the house there were 491 ounces of silver plate. His total assessment in 1830 reached \$26,610, an extremely high value for the period. It was probably during this prosperous time that the house was enlarged to its five-part size. William Williams died around 1838, and his extensive plantation passed to his only son, William, who occupied the estate with his wife, Adeline Pechin through the Civil War years. However, the

destabilization of the southern plantation economy during the war years spelled drastic losses for the Williamses, who eventually mortgaged their land. In 1876, the property, then known as "Greenwood" was sold to Daniel W. Middleton, Sr. of Washington, D. C. as the result of a suit levied against Williams by Nathan J. Langford. From 1910 to 1938 the property was held by Charles T. Cannon.



S-65

Doctor's Office - Outbuilding
Conquest Greenwood
Somerset

Photographed by
DANIEL C. CHURCH



5-65

(arguest Greenwood

St

Photographed by
DANIEL C. CHURCH